



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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Public Information Release

Southeastern Region Office
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UCOA Youth Waterfowl Hunt at Farmington Bay

September 20, 2011

On September 17, 2011, the Utah Conservation Officers' Association hosted a mentored youth waterfowl hunt in conjunction with Youth Waterfowl Day at Farmington Bay WMA. Ten kids, aged 15 years old and younger, were selected from a pool of applicants who submitted essays to the Officers Association on the subject "Why I want to be a Utah Waterfowler." The lucky individuals were taken on the hunt of a lifetime through the combined efforts of some of Utah's most avid waterfowl hunters, members of the Delta Waterfowl Club, the Utah Airboat Association, Utah Mudmotor Association, and Avery Outdoors.

The Youth Waterfowl Day occurs two weeks prior to the opening waterfowl hunt, providing unequaled sporting opportunities for hunters under 15 years of age. This youth-only hunting day is generally less-crowded and can allow for a one-on-one opportunity for kids to learn from their adult mentors in the field. The opportunity to hunt young birds in uncrowded marshes results in wonderful experiences and the potential for a lot of shooting.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Sgt. Keith Fullenkamp and Officer Wyatt Bubak coordinated the essay program with local hunting clubs, which enhanced the opportunity to mentor youth hunters in an exclusive environment. The Conservation Officers Association worked hard to stress the importance of firearm safety throughout the event while encouraging youth to become more actively involved in hunting.

Winners of the contest were provided with a prize package provided by Avery Outdoors and a gift card from Sportsman's Warehouse. The hunters, a parent, their assigned waterfowl guide, and a conservation officer then traveled on an airboat or mudmotor boat to prime hunting locations in the marshes of Farmington Bay where all of the young hunters harvested waterfowl. By noon, the hunting was wrapped up and all participants gathered at the Farmington Bay Learning Center for a cookout while sharing stories. The kids, though tired from an early start, were pleased with their hunt. The guides and officers were confident they had recruited a new batch of waterfowl hunters.

Hunter recruitment, particularly of youth, is a priority for conservation officers and the sporting organizations who are dedicated to preserving our hunting heritage. It is hoped that a new generation of hunters will continue to support the tenets of wildlife management and the protection of our natural resources in Utah.

If you are interested in assisting with future projects recruiting youth to hunting and fishing, contact the Utah Conservation Officers Association President, Sgt. Stacey Jones.



UCOA and Airboat Association make waterfowl hunting a success for youth hunters



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Youth hunters score big with the help of Avery Outdoors



In the marsh of Farmington Bay